



Baldwin Park Operable Unit

Don Vanderkar - Co-Chairperson

Steve Richtel - Co-Chairperson

December 5, 1997

Mr. Wayne Praskins
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-7)
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: Perchlorate Treatability - EPA's Letter of November 26, 1997

Dear Wayne:

Your letter of November 26, 1997 contains kind words regarding the progress the BPOU Steering Committee has made in response to concerns about perchlorate ion. The committee sincerely appreciates EPA's recognition of our efforts.

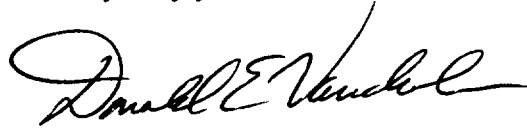
The letter also expresses a concern that the Steering Committee has not made commitments to evaluate perchlorate treatment technologies in addition to the on-going evaluation of biological treatment. You request that the Steering Committee make a commitment by December 12 to test two other technologies during the next several months.

As the Steering Committee has communicated previously, the presence of perchlorate ion in water supplies is a matter of national concern, is being addressed at various levels beginning with Congress, and may affect millions of people. Further, issues of toxicology, treatability, responsibility for release and establishment of national standards require much effort, time and involve many entities. It is unreasonable and perhaps impracticable to force one entity on a "fast-track basis" to evaluate multiple solutions to such a large and complex issue.

Nonetheless, the Steering Committee recognizes EPA's concern regarding keeping the consensus project moving expeditiously and is working to address these concerns on several different "fronts". The Steering Committee is in contact with Applied Process Technology (see attached copy of letter dated December 5, 1997), the Main San Gabriel

Watermaster and ion exchange resin manufacturers, among others, to evaluate additional study of alternate treatment technologies. As this process will require several weeks, we request that the matter be agendized for discussion at our December 19, 1997 meeting at which time we can discuss the status of current efforts and commitments regarding evaluation of additional technologies.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Vanderkar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Donald E. Vanderkar, Co-Chair
BPOU Steering Committee

cc: BPOU SC